

year, John Spaar will lead it in the early stages of this plan. He will also continue to direct the association's important work of monitoring legislation in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, John Spaar currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the Missouri Press Association. I am sure the Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his contributions to the field of journalism and congratulating him on his selection as the next president of the association.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP CHRISTOPHER AND CARYN SCHWAB ON THE EVENING OF THE CHARLES J. VALLONE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, who will be honored at the 2004 Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance. For the past seven decades, the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund has helped deserving young people from the Astoria community attend the college of their choice. Additionally, each year, the Scholarship Fund acknowledges community members who have made outstanding contributions to the public good.

This year's honorees, Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, certainly deserve our appreciation. Ms. Schwab, the Executive Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, has been a tireless and effective advocate for the health care priorities of New York residents for more than twenty years. During her distinguished career, Ms. Schwab has served as Health Care Advisor to New York City Mayor Ed Koch and as Vice President of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Under her direction, the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens has demonstrated its commitment to community service. Ms. Schwab has presided over the expansion and modernization of Mount Sinai's emergency room and the creation of its new endoscopy and mammography facilities; additionally, during her tenure, the Hospital has greatly expanded its inpatient and outpatient services to those in need.

The Scholarship Fund's second honoree, Philip Christopher, is a philanthropist and champion of democracy and human rights. Mr. Christopher is the CEO of Audiovox Communications Corporation. Under his leadership, Audiovox has become a leader in the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Christopher, a native of Cyprus, immigrated to the United States when he was ten years old. Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, his ancestral home and property were confiscated by the Turkish Army. This tragedy inspired Mr. Christopher to become a passionate advocate for human rights. As President of both the Pancypryan Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee for Justice for Cyprus, Mr. Christopher has used most of his free time to fight for the liberation of his homeland. Additionally, Mr. Christopher serves on the Board of Directors of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York

Hospital Medical Center of Queens, where he helped found the Kyrenia Cardiovascular Center.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund and its honorees, Caryn Schwab and Philip Christopher. Their many accomplishments are a reflection of the vibrant and thriving community they so faithfully serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN ARNOLD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ken Arnold and thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Colorado for eight years in the Colorado General Assembly as a State Senator. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for all Coloradans. As Ken celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

Upon his retirement from the Colorado State Patrol as a major, Ken still felt he could serve his community, and he successfully ran for the State senate seat for District 23 in 1996. While serving the people of Adams, Broomfield and Weld counties, Ken has focused on education reform, transportation concerns, and criminal justice issues. For this current term, he sits as chairman for the Education Committee, and is a member of the Finance, Judiciary, and Legislative Council Committees. For his excellent record in the General Assembly, he has been named Guardian of Small Business by the NFIB in 1999 and 2000, and recognized by the CACI as their Legislator of the Year in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Ken Arnold is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. Ken's selfless dedication to his community and the State of Colorado has helped ensure a promising future for our great country, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bill here today, and wish him and his wife Marilyn all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD BECKER JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Becker, Jr. for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Outstanding Firefighter and Emergency Management Services Person of the Year in Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Richard Becker has been a volunteer at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company and the Boyertown Lions Community Ambu-

lance Company since he was 16 years old. Now at 42, Richard Becker is being recognized for 25 years of service to the Boyertown area community.

Richard Becker currently serves as the Assistant Financial Secretary at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company, in addition to his full-time job as a computer programmer in Conshohocken. Richard is also attending Lehigh Valley Paramedic School and will graduate in December upon completion of 1,500 hours of school and practical work.

The Boyertown community has benefited greatly from Richard Becker's service. He provides learning experiences for the children in the community during Fire Prevention Week when he allows the children to come to the fire house and learn the essentials of fire safety. The students are also given the opportunity to learn about the different kinds of equipment used by firefighters during an emergency. Richard feels that Fire Prevention Week is a way to encourage future emergency services volunteers with younger members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Richard Becker for his many years of exemplary service to the Boyertown Community.

U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY REPORT: "EVERYTHING OCEANS"

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today marks a milestone for our oceans and for the way we view them. It has been more than 30 years since we, as a Nation, have evaluated our relationship with the sea. This morning, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its Preliminary Report—a comprehensive consideration of "everything oceans," including governance structure, stewardship and education, living resources, science needs, and many other topics.

The Commission was mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, legislation on which I am an original cosponsor and which is based on bills that I initially introduced in 1997 and 1999. In the Oceans Act we gave the Commissioners an enormous task and today I want to recognize the efforts of the 16 Commissioners, 26 Advisors, and countless staff who helped to create such a comprehensive report. I am sure that the Commission's excitement over the Report's release equals the thrill felt by those of us who love and care deeply about the oceans.

The U.S. Commission Report details, in over 400 pages, the appalling state of our oceans governance and embarrassing record of protecting ocean resources. While we have many crises—at home and abroad—that require our immediate attention, we cannot overlook the fact that our oceans are in a state of crisis, too. It is my sincere hope that both Members of Congress and the Bush Administration will read the U.S. Commission's Report and realize that our oceans need attention—now—and that the country is looking to us—their leaders—to act.

We all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the